

Message Text

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21

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00

DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 EB-07

COME-00 TRSE-00 ABF-01 /072 W

----- 028337

R 060706Z MAR 76

FM USINT BAGHDAD

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2924

INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MANAMA

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

C O N F I D E N T I A L BAGHDAD 0307

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EFIN OVIP, XF

SUBJ: DAVID ROCKEFELLER VISIT TO IRAQ

REF: (A) 1975 BAGHDAD 99 (NOTAL), (B) STATE 040391

1. ROCKEFELLER EXECUTIVE JET LANDED BAGHDAD SHORTLY AFTER
1100 HOURS SUNDAY FEBRUARY 29 -- ONE HOUR BEHIND SCHEDULE
DUE TO 8:30 MEETING EARLIER IN MORNING WITH KUWAITI CROWN PRINCE
AND CONGESTION AT KUWAIT AIRPORT RELATED TO DEPARTURE OF EGYPTIAN
PRESIDENT ANWAR SADAT. PARTY WAS MET IN BAGHDAD AIRPORT VIP
LOUNGE BY US-EDUCATED MINISTER OF FINANCE DR. FAWZI AL-QAISI
AND BY ADNAN AL-TAYYAR, CHAIRMAN OF RAFFDAIN BANK, AS WELL AS
BY USINT PRINCIPAL OFFICER AND COMMERCIAL ATTACHE.

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2. AFTER BRIEF, VERY CORDIAL VISIT IN VIP LOUNGE, PARTY DEPARTED

IN FONMIN LIMOUSINES WITH MOTORCYCLE ESCORT FOR SEPARATE MEETINGS WITH ACTING CENTRAL BANK GOVERNOR AHMED ABDUL BAQI AND RAFIDAIN BANK CHAIRMAN ADNAN AL-TAYYAR. ROCKEFELLER AND FOUR EXECUTIVES ACCOMPANYING HIM WERE THEN GUESTS AT WORKING LUNCH HOSTED BY FINANCE MINISTER AND ATTENDED BY LEADING FINANCIAL PERSONALITIES INCLUDING FAKHRI QADDOURI, CHAIRMAN OF THE ECONOMIC AFFAIRS BUREAU OF THE REVOLUTIONARY COMMAND COUNCIL. GROUP CONCLUDED STAY IN BAGHDAD WITH HALF HOUR BRIEFING AT USINT AT ROCKEFELLER'S REQUEST. PARTY DEPARTED SHORTLY AFTER 1700 EN ROUTE TO TEHRAN.

3. USINT PRINCIPAL OFFICER HOSTED SMALL DINNER EVENING FEB. 29 FOR CHASE MANHATTAN EXECUTIVES, ARCHIBALD ROOSEVELT AND GRIFFIN BURNETT, WHO DID NOT PROCEED TO IRAN WITH ROCKEFELLER.

4. VISIT RECEIVED LOW-KEY FACTUAL COVERAGE IN ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND ARABIC LANGUAGE PRESS ON MARCH 1.

5. COMMENT: ROCKEFELLER AD GROUP SAID VISIT WAS CONSTRUCTIVE. ONE OF ROCKEFELLER'S OBJECTIVES WAS TO CONVINCE CENTRAL BANK TO RELAX ITS PROHIBITION ON PLACING GOI FUNDS IN BRANCH BANKS (ROCKEFELLER WAS PUSHING FOR CHASE BRANCH IN LONDON) AND GROUP FELT PROGRESS WAS MADE. IN RESPONSE TO IRAQI BANKERS' PERCEPTIBLE CONCERN WITH RECENT NEW YORK BANKING ANTI-BOYCOTT LAW, GROUP ASSURED THEM THAT CHASE INTENDED TO CONTINUE DO BUSINESS WITH ARABS AS LONG AS ARABS DO NOT ASK THEM TO DISCRIMINATE ON BASIS OF RACE OR NATIONAL ORIGIN. GROUP DID NOT DETECT ANY SIGNIFICANT SHIFTS IN POLITICAL ATMOSPHERE AND WERE SOMEWHAT DISAPPOINTED TO BE TOLD THAT GOI HAD NO PLANS FOR ENLARGING IRAQ'S PRIVATE SECTOR AS IRAQ EXPANDED ITS COMMERCIAL LINKS WITH THE WEST.

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